



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 20, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *[Signature]*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – ROLLING HILLS
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Rolling Hills Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Rolling Hills Group Home, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Rolling Hills Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 14-18 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Rolling Hills Group Home was providing services for four Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Rolling Hills Group Home is located in Ventura County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long-term goals.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:asl

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Hanna Coli, Executive Director, Rolling Hills Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

Rolling Hills Group Home
4407 Hempstead Street
Simi Valley, California 93063
Phone: (805) 584-9602
License Number: 561703374
Rate Classification Level: 12

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Rolling Hills Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

1. Rolling Hills Group Home management develop comprehensive NSPs that have detailed, measurable, and achievable short and long-term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

ROLLING HILLS GROUP HOME
4407 HEMPSTEAD STREET
SIMI VALLEY, CA. 93063
License #561703374
Phone #805-584-9602, Fax #805-5220-4812

May 27th, 2006

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
Attention: Ms. Candice Rhue, Group Home Audit
Supervisor.

500 W. Temple Street, Room 515A
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

SUBJECT: Correction Action Plan.

Dear Ms Candice Rhue:

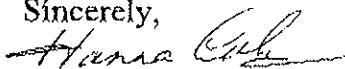
Please accept my apologies for the delay and appropriate way to inform you on our Correction Action Plan on our implementation with correcting the Needs and Services Plan, by adding the different categories and percentages of present and future improvements on all these categories.

As the Executive Director/ Licensee I will personally guarantee you to check for Comprehensive Implementations of the present corrections and sign the outgoing "Needs and Services Plan" as well as the return with the signature of the appropriate Social Worker or Probation Officer.

The dresser, curtains for their closet as well as bed skirts are all taken care off.

Again I apologize for all the inconvenience and misunderstanding on our part. This will not happen again.

Sincerely,



Hanna Coli, Executive Director